



CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

AGENDA DATE: May 11, 2010

TO: Mayor and Councilmembers

FROM: Water Resources, Public Works Department

SUBJECT: Purchase Order For Bathymetric Survey Of Gibraltar Reservoir

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council authorize the General Services Manager to issue a Purchase Order to MNS Engineers Inc. (MNS), in the amount of \$28,535 for professional services to perform a bathymetric survey of Gibraltar Reservoir (Reservoir), and approve expenditures of \$2,850 for extra services that may result from necessary changes in the scope of work for a total of \$31,385.

DISCUSSION:

The City of Santa Barbara owns and operates the Gibraltar Reservoir, which provides approximately 35% of the City's water supply through the Mission Tunnel. The Reservoir has been losing storage capacity at a rate of approximately 76 acre-feet per year from the influx of silt and debris. A bathymetric survey has been performed every three years over the past two decades to determine the remaining storage capacity of the Reservoir. The survey is conducted by measuring the depth of the Reservoir at various locations, and then using the measurements to calculate the remaining storage capacity relative to the top of Gibraltar Dam.

The Zaca Fire burned more than 60% of the Reservoir watershed, and the subsequent winter rains have caused significant debris flows into the Reservoir, which have accelerated the rate at which the Reservoir was being filled in with debris. MNS performed a bathymetric survey of the Reservoir in October 2007, after the Zaca Fire, but prior to the winter rains. The 2007 survey determined the Reservoir had approximately 7,500 acre feet of remaining storage capacity. MNS performed a follow-up bathymetric survey in 2008, after the first winter following the Zaca Fire. The 2008 survey demonstrated that the Reservoir had lost approximately 30% of its 2007 capacity, and had only 5,300 acre feet of capacity remaining. The proposed 2010 bathymetric survey is necessary to determine the amount of storage capacity that is remaining after two additional winters following the Zaca Fire.

MNS was selected for consistency in reporting since they have performed the surveys at Gibraltar for the past 18 years and are one of the consultants on the City's three-year pre-approved engineering consultants list, which was created using a competitive qualification-based process for engineering services. MNS has submitted an acceptable proposal in the amount of \$28,535 to complete the proposed work, which is only 3.9% higher than their 2007 rate for similar services. Staff is also requesting \$2,850 in change order authority to cover any unanticipated expenses, for a total amount of \$31,385.

BUDGET/FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Water Resources conducts bathymetric surveys at Gibraltar Reservoir every three years. This proposed work is being conducted a year earlier in an effort to assess the current condition of the Reservoir, and to assist with water supply planning efforts. There are sufficient appropriated funds in the Water Fund to cover the project costs.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT

The bathymetric study helps to determine the amount of available water in the Reservoir. The data gained by the study is necessary to develop and manage the City's water supply and to mitigate the effects of drought.

PREPARED BY: Catherine Taylor, Water System Manager/CT/mh

SUBMITTED BY: Christine F. Andersen, Public Works Director

APPROVED BY: City Administrator's Office